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Message Text

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12/50
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 CAB-09 COME-00 FAA-00

DOTE-00 SY-10 USSS-00 SCCT-02 A-01 AID-20 JUSE-00

OMB-01 DRC-01 /165 W
---------- 046134
R 040845Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1114
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONGEN HONG KONG
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 2697

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARAS. 5., 6., 7., & 8.)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRN, ASEC, ID
SUBJ: THE PATA CONFERENCE AND AVIATION ISSUES:
SECURITY OF INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS; ACCESS
TO BALI BY FOREIGN CARRIERS

REF: JAKARTA A-137 OF 6/15/73

1. SUMMARY. PACIFIC AREA TRAVEL ASSOCIATION (PATA) WORKSHOP IN BALI MARCH 28-29 AND CONFERENCE IN JAKARTA APRIL 1-4 WILL FOCUS NATIONAL ATTENTION ON INTERESTS OF THE INDONESIAN TOURIST AND HOTEL BUSINESS AS NEVER BEFORE. WE URGE DEPARTMENT TO CONSIDER USING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE WITH INDONESIANS TWO ISSUES
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IN WHICH TOURIST INDUSTRY SUPPORT IS OF POTENTIAL

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HELP TO US: SECURITY OF INTERNATIONAL AVIATION
AND INDONESIA'S "ONE GATEWAY POLICY." END SUMMARY.

2. PATA MEETING IS EXPECTED TO BRING 1600-2000
FOREIGN GUESTS TO INDONESIA WITHIN A FEW WEEKS.
AIRLINE, HOTEL, AND TRAVEL BUSINESS EXECUTIVES,
TRAVEL WRITERS, AND OFFICIALS OF ASSOCIATIONS
(IUOTO, RTCPA) HAVE BEEN INVITED FROM AROUND THE
PACIFIC BASIN. U.S. IS EXPECTED TOA HAVE STRONGEST
REPRESENTATION, FOLLOWED BY AUSTRALIA, JAPAN,
HONG KONG, SINGAPORE IN THAT ORDER. JAKARTA, BALI,
AND OTHER CENTERS UNDERGOING STRENUOUS REFURBISHING,
AND AUTHORITIES ARE STRUGGLING TO COMPLETE SEVERAL
MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS IN TIME TO GREE THE
DELEGATES. PROGRAM INCLUDES SEVERAL OCCASIONS FOR VISITORS
TO MEET WITH HIGH-LEVEL GOI PERSONALITIES. EITHER
PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT WILL RECEIVE GROUP AND
THEY WILL BE ENTERTAINED BY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS
EMIL SALIM (WHOSE PORTFOLIO INCLUDES CIVIL AVIATION,
SHIPPING, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AND TOURISM). THIS
OCCASION WILL FOCUS PUBLIC ATTENTION ON TOURIST
SECTOR AS HAS NO OTHER EVENT IN A LONG TIME.

3. IN PREPARING FOR PATA WORKSHOP IN BALI MARCH 28
AND 29 AND CONFERENCE JAKARTA APRIL 1-4, INDONESIAN
OFFICIALS HAVE FOR FIRST TIME BETRAYED MORE THAN
PRO FORMA CONCERN ABOUT AIRTPORT SECURITY. AT THEIR
REQUEST USDLG HAS ARRANGED TRAINING IN HANDLING OF
SUSPICIOUS OBJECTS FOR SELECTED PERSONNEL OF
INDONESIAN NATIONAL POLICE. PARTICULAR EFFORT
EVIDENTLY BEING MADE TO HAVE PERSONNEL BRIEFED IN
THESE SPECIAL TECHNIQUES ON BOARD FOR PATA.

4. THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE INDONESIANS ARE
FOCUSING ON AIRPORT SECURITY AS CONTINUING PROBLEM.
UNTIL NOW AIRLINES HAVE BEEN LARGELY ON THEIR OWN
IN PROTECTING THEIR OWN FLIGHTS. ON REQUEST AND FOR
COMPENSATION POLICE ON AIRPORT DUTY WILL MAN SECURITY
DEVICES INSTALLED THERE (WITHOUT CONVINCING SHOW
OF COMPETENCE). EMBASSY UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ANYONE
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IN GOI HEIERARCHY WITH CLEAR COMBINATION OF INTEREST
IN AND AUTHORITY OVER AIRPORT SECURITY. CONSENSUS
MOST OBSERVERS IS THAT: A) INDONESIANS SHRINK FROM
EVEN CONTEMPLATING DILEMMA THEY WOULD FACE IF
DISSIDENTS AMONG THEIR MOSLEM BROTHERS SHOULD FORCE
THEM TO DECIDE BETWEEN THAT LOYALTY AND THEIR INTEREST
IN SECURITY; B) THEY DO NOT BELIEVE IT COULD HAPPEN
HERE. EVEN SINGAPORE INCIDENT OF JANUARY APPEARS TO HAVE

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STIMULATED LITTLE SENSE OF REALITY OF TERORIST THREATS
TO CIVIL AVIATION. BUT NOW THAT PLF HAS BEEN REPORTED AS
OPPOSING AIR TERRORISM, CLIMATE FOR APPROACHING INDONESIANS
APPEARS MODESTLY BETTER. PATA INTERESTS OF INDONESIANS MIGHT
MAKE THAT FAVORABLE CHANNEL FOR SUCH AN APPROACH. BELIEVE
IT AT LEAST WORTH TESTING WHETHER AUTHORITIES WOULD BE
RESPONSIVE TO EXPRESSION OF CONCERN BY TRAVELING
PUBLIC REPRESENTED AT PATA RE OWN SECURITY.

5. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE (REFAIR) GOI HAS SUSPENDED
AGGRESSIVE PURSUIT OF "ONE GATEWAY POLICY" FOR SOME
MONTHS NOW IN ANTICIPATION OF PATA CONFERENCE.
(THIS IS DOCTRINE THAT WAS INVOKED IN 1972 TO TER-
MINATE DIRECT SERVICES TO BALI FROM FOREIGN POINTS BY
CATHAY PACIFIC, SINGAPORE AIRWAYS, AND MALAYSIAN
CARRIER.) SERVICES STILL OPERATED BY THAI INTER-
NATIONAL, QANTAS, AND PAN AMERICAN WOULD BE THREATENED BY
"ONE GATEWAY" REVIVAL. DIRECTOR FO AIR TRAFFIC RISAKOTTA
RECENTLY MADE A POINT OF REMINDING EMBOFF THAT PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR WIWEKO OF GARUDA AIRWAYS HAS NOT ALTERED HIS STRONG
PARTISANSHIP OF "ONE GATEWAY," AND THAT COMMUNICATIONS
MINISTER EMIL SALIM LEANS VERY MUCH THAT WAY (HE
CONSIDERS IT "OUTRAGEOUS" THAT PAN AMERICAN MAKING
MONEY CARRYING PASSENGERS TO BALI.) RISAKOTTA
STATED FLATLY THAT IF THEIR VIEWS PREVIAL THE ONE
GATEWAY POLICY WILL BE REVIVED SOON RPT SOON AFTER
THE PATA CONFERENCE. THIS INTELLIGENCE FULLY
CONSISTENT WITH RUMORS CIRCULATING IN AVIATION BUSINESS.
RISAKOTTA POINTS OUT THAT FORCES OPPOSING "ONE GATEWAY"
WILL GROW STONGER AS HOTEL CAPACITY INCREASES THROUGH-
OUT INDONESIA. BUT FOR THE MOMENT BALI CANNOT
ADEQUATELY HANDLE THE TOURISTS THAT ARRIVE THERE ON
EXISTING FLIGHTS, SO THE HOTEL INTERESTS ARE NOT
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PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO INTERFERENCE WITH TOURIST
ARRIVALS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE USEFUL
FOR DEPARTMENT TO CONSULT DISCREETLY WITH PATA
(SUGGESTED CONTACT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARVIN PLAKE,
SAN FRANCISCO) AND WITH PAN AMERICAN AND OTHER
INTERESTED AIRLINES TO DETERMINE EXTENT COINCIDENCE
OF INTEREST AMONG AIRLINES, TOURIST INDUSTRY, AND
USG REGARDING INDONESIAN AIRPORT SECURITY, AND
WHETHER SUBJECT CAN USEFULLY BE RAISED WITHIN CONTEXT OF
UPCOMING WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE. MEETING PROVIDES A SEETING
IN WHICH THE EFFECT OF AALL KINDS OF FACTORS UPON TOURIST
ARRIVALS WILL RECEIVE AN UNUSAL AMOUNT OF ATTENTION. PERHAPS
THIS IS ONE THAT OUGHT TO BE EXAMINED ALONG WITH THE REST.

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7. WITH RESPECT TO ONE GATEWAY POLICY, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT GROWTH IN TOURIST TRAVEL TO INDONESIA WHICH IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE AS DIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF PATA-GENERATED INTEREST DEPENDS TO SIGNIFICANT EXTENT ON AVAILABILITY OF CONVENIENT AIR SERVICE TO BALI. DOUBTFUL THAT ARGUMENT WILL HAVE MUCH IMPACT ON PRESENT MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS; INDEED DIRECT CONFRONTATION LIKELY TO STIFFEN HIS RESOLVE IN FAVOR OF RESTRICTIVE APPROACH. HOWEVER, BELIEVE THOUGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO HOW PATA MEETING CAN HELP RALLY SUPPORT OF TOURIST, HOTEL, AND POSSIBLY POLITICAL INTERESTS FOR CONTINUED ACCESS TO BALI BY FOREIGN CARRIERS.

8. DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER CONSULTING AUSTRALIANS, ET AL, RE POSSIBILITY REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR TOURIST INTERESTS CONTRIBUTING TO DISCUSSION THESE QUESTIONS IN PATA FORUM.
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